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Paper tigers, YSA victorious by default

Some persons have a phenomenal knack for arranging triumphant rallies and winning debates every single time their opponents fail to show up. These courageous traits once again were displayed Wednesday by the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA) at a demonstration demanding an end to Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) recruiting and opening of University CIA files.

YSA positions never have been distinguished for precision or logical thought, so they should not be faulted now for the nonsense in which their latest escapade abounds. But when someone else's assassinations and misdeeds solemnly are criticized by those who appoint themselves orthodox interpreters of a doctrine described by Lenin as "unlimited power based on force and unrestricted by any laws," which has claimed in the last 50 years more human lives than all the wars preceding it together, some kind of comment obviously is called for.

1. The first thing which stands out is that YSA is utterly grief-stricken over the CIA-inspired assassinations of right-wing dictators Diem and Trujillo. What it has forgotten to explain (but such lapses are entirely excusable in bereavement) is how those rulers would have fared if delivered to the tender mercies of the Socialist Workers' Party!

To venerate all life without exception is very altruistic and commendable, but to indict someone else for the very things one gladly should have done himself is the lowest sort of hypocrisy and cynicism that could be imagined.

I apologize if, as I hope, I am completely wrong. Perhaps the Trotskyites have really become so outspokenly heretical that, instead of liquidating the bourgeois ruling class, they merely would retire it on a comfortable pension.

2. The faked indignation over CIA attempts to blow a cigar in Castro's face is doubly disgusting because (a) dictator Castro is guilty of sending thousands of Cubans

to the firing squad, holding 30,000 imprisoned (according to Amnesty International) in the most hideous conditions, and exiling half a million, and (b) the much maligned CIA, which knocks down governments as if they were bowling pins, was so inept at it that it was unable to accomplish the act it is being charged with.

If any proof is required that Castro is alive and well, the fact that only last month he sent 10,000 troops to prop up a similar dictatorship in Angola -- with enthusiastic YSA support -- serves the purpose.

So, indeed, what a great loss to mankind, what an undeserved fate it would have been if the dark plots had succeeded. Most Cubans undoubtedly would call the CIA to account in this matter, only not because it *tried* to liquidate Castro, but because it failed.

3. No "indictment" would be complete without accusing the CIA of civilian casualties in Vietnam. But every indictment is incomplete as long as it fails to ask the question how the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese still managed to win the war -- by saying the right prayers and shooting harmless blanks?

Civilian casualties are an unfortunate part of every conflict. But the acid test is how a country treats its own mistakes. Every aspect of American conduct has been discussed publicly (and often magnified) in this rotten country. One of the culprits has even been court-martialed.

Have the Viet Cong investigated the 1968 Hue massacre, in which during barely a month of "liberation," 10,000 persons were dumped into a common grave, and does YSA know whether anyone has been court-martialed for that?

4. They make an infernal noise of the fact that they have been under CIA "surveillance." But in spite of CIA's machinations, the rally seems to have been held as scheduled. How many YSA rallies have been held at Moscow State University lately? The KBG, which YSA